

Abstract of the Disclosure

A middle-tier Web server with a queryable cache that contains items from one or more data sources. The Web server's data access layer determines whether a data item required
5 by an application program is in the cache. If it is, the data access layer obtains the item from the cache; otherwise, it obtains it from the data source. In the preferred embodiment, the Web application programs use global data set identifiers to identify data sets, while the cached data sets are identified by local data set identifiers. The cache receives a query context of global data set identifiers, determines whether the data sets of
10 the query context are cached, and if they are, provides the local data set identifiers for the query context to the access layer, which then uses the local data set identifiers to query the cache.